



## **Read more about it! One City, One Book Recommended Reading**

Did you like *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson? Here are more books we recommend that you can check out at your library.

### **Journey Themed Books**

#### ***Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain**

An American classic, *Huckleberry Finn* tells the story of a carefree, 'idle and vulgar' young lad, the famous Huck, who fakes his death and hits the road – taking with him Jim, a runaway slave – in order to escape the adult world and gain their freedom. It's funny, biting, and explores issues like race and identity as the boys travel by foot and by raft.

#### ***Sideways* by Rex Pickett**

Two friends head out on a stag trip to Californian wine country, or Santa Ynez, to be precise: it's Jack's last weekend of pre-marital freedom, and it's Miles' escape from his divorce. On the road for a week, with plenty of fine wines to sample, the men get down and dirty with a lot self-evaluation. This is a buddy book for the middle classes, and while it's a gentler road-trip than some of the above, we can't always be sashing up cars and getting chased by pimps. Plus, if you like this, check out the superb film adaptation starring Paul Giamatti.

***Last Girls* by Lee Smith** - Smith reunites four college suitemates on a boat tour of the mighty Mississippi. Thirty-five years before, inspired by reading Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* in class, the women floated down the same river on a manmade raft; now they are gathered at the request of their recently deceased ringleader's husband. The story unfolds through the eyes of each woman as the old friends weave college memories with their own dramas spanning the three decades since graduation.

***Don Quixote* by Miguel De Cervantes** - In the company of his faithful squire, Sancho Panza, these exploits blossom in all sorts of wonderful ways. While Quixote's fancy often leads him astray—he tilts at windmills, imagining them to be giants—Sancho acquires cunning and a certain sagacity. Sane madman and wise fool, they roam the world together-and together they have haunted readers' imaginations for nearly four hundred years.

***Wild* by Cheryl Strayed** At age 26, following the death of her mother, divorce, and a run of reckless behavior, Cheryl Strayed found herself alone near the foot of the Pacific Crest Trail--inexperienced, over-equipped, and desperate to reclaim her life.

#### ***Travels with Charley: In Search of America* by John Steinbeck**

Steinbeck set out in a custom-made camper-truck, which he named Rocinante (after Don Quixote's horse), in middle age — he was 58, married, and well established as a writer. He wrote that he wanted to get to know the America that he'd made his living writing about, and he did, with mixed results. He wanders across the country, meeting people of all backgrounds,



some of whom just want to join him for a while, on the road, and he wonders, “Perhaps we have overrated roots as a psychic need.”

**Blue Highways: A Journey into America** by William Least Heat Moon

When he lost his job and split with his wife at age 38, William Least Heat Moon did what every one of us think we should do: Hit the road. Moon stuck to what he called “blue highways” — the often-neglected non-interstate highways that used to be colored blue in the Rand McNally Road Atlas. The result was 13,000 miles of soul-searching across rural America in his van named “Ghost Dancing,” which is now in the Museum of Anthropology at the University of Missouri.

**Fiction Books set in Appalachia**

**Serena by Ron Rash** - Rash’s chilling gothic tale of greed, corruption, and revenge set against the backdrop of the 1930s wilderness and America’s burgeoning environmental movement

**The Songcatcher by Sharyn McCrumb** - McCrumb’s novel weaves a beautifully written, historically accurate tale of a song’s passage through history—from the 1700s to the present, from the shores of Scotland to western North Carolina...where a folksinger longs to rediscover its haunting tune.

**Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver** first novel to realistically imagine the near-term impact of “global weirding,” Barbara Kingsolver sets her latest story in rural Appalachia . In fictional Feathertown, Tennessee, Dellarobia Turnbow--on the run from her stifling life--charges up the mountain above her husband’s family farm and stumbles onto a “valley of fire” filled with millions of monarch butterflies. This vision is deemed miraculous by the town’s parishioners, then the international media. But when Ovid, a scientist who studies monarch behavior, sets up a lab on the Turnbow farm, he learns that the butterflies’ presence signals systemic disorder--and Dellarobia’s in-laws’ logging plans won’t help.

**Nature/ Environmental Reads**

**Walden by Henry David Thoreau** *Walden* opens with a simple announcement that Thoreau spent two years in Walden Pond, near Concord, Massachusetts, living a simple life supported by no one. Thoreau exhorts us to “meet” our lives and live fully. Endorsing the values of austerity, simplicity, and solitude, Thoreau consistently emphasizes the minimalism of his lifestyle. Thoreau devotes great attention to nature, the passing of the seasons, and the creatures with which he shares the woods.

**Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder by Richard Louv** - In this influential work about the staggering divide between children and the outdoors, child advocacy expert Richard Louv directly links the lack of nature in the lives of today’s wired



generation—he calls it nature-deficit—to some of the most disturbing childhood trends, such as the rises in obesity, attention disorders, and depression.

***Grandma Gatewood's Walk*** by Ben Montgomery - Emma Gatewood told her family she was going on a walk and left her small Ohio hometown with a change of clothes and less than two hundred dollars. The next anybody heard from her, this genteel, farm-reared, 67-year-old great-grandmother had walked 800 miles along the 2,050-mile Appalachian Trail. Grandma Gatewood, as the reporters called her, became the first woman to hike the entire Appalachian Trail alone, as well as the first person—man or woman—to walk it twice and three times.

### **For Kids**

***Follow the Trail: A Young Person's Guide to the Great Outdoors*** by Jessica Loy

***Walking with Henry: Based on the Life and Works of Henry David Thoreau*** by Thomas Locker

### **Books about the Appalachian Trail**

***In Beauty May She Walk: Hiking the Appalachian Trail at 60*** by Leslie Mass

***Blind Courage*** by Bill Irwin

***The Appalachian Trail Reader*** edited by David Emblidge

***A Journey North: One Woman's Story of Hiking the Appalachian Trail*** by Adrienne Hall

***Walking the Appalachian Trail*** by Larry Luxenberg

***How to Hike the A.T.: The Nitty Gritty Details of a Long-Distance Trek*** by Michelle Ray

***Becoming Odyssa: Epic Adventures on the Appalachian Trail*** by Jennifer Davis

***A Child's Walk in the Wilderness: An 8 Year Old Boy and His Father Take on the Appalachian Trail*** by Paul Molyneaux

***Hiking Through: One Man's Journey to Peace and Freedom on the Appalachian Trail*** by Paul Stutzman

***Appalachian Travels: The Diary of Olive Dame Campbell*** edited by Elizabeth McCutchen Williams



***How to Hike the A.T.: The Nitty-Gritty Details of a Long-Distance Trek*** by Michelle Ray

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